

Marion Carnegie Library Policy on Unattended Children in the Library

The Marion Carnegie Library is dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for the proper use of the Library's resources by all users. However, the Library's staff is not the primary caretaker of minor patrons of the Library. The following policy has been set forth to provide the greatest degree of protection for both the Library staff and minor patrons, and to provide the most conducive environment for the use of the Library's resources by all patrons.

- Children age 10 or under must be accompanied and directly supervised at all times by a responsible adult caregiver. Caregiver is defined as the child's parent, legal guardian or custodian, age 16 or older.
- The parent or caregiver accompanying a child is responsible for the child's behavior while they are in the Library.
- When the safety of an unattended child is in question, or the parent or responsible caregiver cannot be located, or if the Library is closing, Library staff is authorized to call the Marion Police Department and stay with the child until the police arrive. The police will be asked to take custody of the child.
- If any minor child is unaccompanied or unsupervised, as described above, and becomes disruptive to the extent that such behavior (1) causes the Library's staff to be unable to perform their job duties or (2) causes other patrons to be unable to productively use the Library's resources, the Library staff may contact the child's parent or legal guardian to take custody of the child. If staff is unable to contact the child's parent or legal guardian, they may then notify the Marion Police Department to take custody of the child.
- If parental supervision is required at a children's or young adult program, announcements and registration forms will reflect that requirement.

Children over the age of 10 may use the Library unattended by an adult, provided they adhere to all Library rules and policies concerning behavior. If a child between the ages of 11 and 17 is unattended by an adult at closing time, Library staff may contact the Marion Police Department to request that they take custody of the child.

Approved 8/8/2022